

Amendments to the Drawings

Please amend FIG. 5 according to the enclosed Replacement Sheet 3/5. Specifically, element 48 has been added to reference the narrower opening as described in paragraph [0017].

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are in the application.

By this amendment, Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to more distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as his invention. Also, the specification at paragraph [0015] has been amended to fix a minor typographical error. Additionally, applicant is submitting a Replacement Sheet herewith for drawing sheet 3/5 to fix an element numbering error in FIG. 5. The specification at paragraph [0017] supports this change.

Response to First 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claims 1-20 were rejected under §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments made herein and the remarks presented hereinafter. Applicant respectfully believes that the Examiner may have misinterpreted the invention to which his claims are drawn.

As stated in paragraph [0022] of applicant's specification, isolation tub 10 provides, among other things, isolation between passive components 93 (e.g., inductors, bonding pads, etc.) and region of semiconductor material 30 (shown in FIG. 9). That is, isolation tub 10 provides a reduced capacitive coupling between passive component 93 and region of semiconductor material 30. This is further supported in paragraph [0014] of applicant's specification. Thus, passive component 93 and region of semiconductor material 30 would be examples of capacitive plates that the Examiner refers to in the Office Action.

For additional clarity, applicant has amended claim 1 to remove the reference to capacitance. With this change and the

explanation provided above, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-20 meet the requirements of §112 first paragraph.

Response to Second 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claims 1-20 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectively traversed in view of the remarks presented hereinafter

Applicant respectfully submits that he has not omitted any essential steps from his claims. Applicant further submits that the subject matter of his invention pertains to a method for forming an isolation tub and the isolation tub structure itself.

Applicant is not sure why the Examiner is referring to trench capacitors in the Office Action. As stated in paragraph [0014], FIG. 4 shows a partial top view of a semiconductor device 33 that has an isolation or dielectric tub 10 integrated with a device active area 31. As further stated therein, isolation tub 10 is suitable, among other things, for the placement of passive components thereon, and in a preferred embodiment, a trench isolation region 34 separates active area 31 from isolation tub 10.

As stated in paragraph [0015], FIGS. 5-9 show a process flow for forming isolation tub 10 together with trench isolation 34 and active area 31 to show the integration of applicant's invention into an integrated circuit flow. That being said, FIG. 8 shows an exemplary intermediate step in the formation of isolation tub 10 together with isolation trench 34 and active area 31.

In view of the above remarks, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-20 meet the requirements of §112, second paragraph,

and withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

If Examiner Abraham has further questions regarding the subject matter of applicant's invention, applicant's undersigned attorney respectfully requests that Examiner Abraham contact him at 602.244.4885 to discuss the matter further at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of all of the above, it is believed that the claims are allowable, and the case is now in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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